



**Conference of the Parties to the
United Nations Convention
against Transnational
Organized Crime**

Distr.: General
19 June 2014

Original: English

Seventh session

Vienna, 6-10 October 2014

Item 2 (b) of the provisional agenda*

**Review of the implementation of the United Nations
Convention against Transnational Organized Crime
and the Protocols thereto: Protocol to Prevent,
Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons,
Especially Women and Children**

**Activities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
to promote and support the implementation of the Protocol
to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons,
Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United
Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime**

Report of the Secretariat

I. Introduction

1. The present report seeks to inform the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, at its seventh session, of the activities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to promote and support the implementation of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

2. The Trafficking in Persons Protocol has a total of 159 parties. Since the sixth session of the Conference of the Parties in October 2012, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Dominica, Saint Lucia, Thailand and Zimbabwe have become parties to the Protocol.

* CTOC/COP/2014/I.



II. Activities to assist States in the implementation of the Protocol

3. In 2012, UNODC adopted a comprehensive strategy to combat trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants, focusing on the following areas: (a) provision of technical assistance for the implementation of the Trafficking in Persons Protocol and the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime; (b) support for inter-agency cooperation and coordination; and (c) management of the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children.

4. Based on this strategy, UNODC continued to provide significant support to Member States in their efforts to implement the Trafficking in Persons Protocol, both through advancing normative work and implementing technical assistance activities.

A. Normative work, servicing intergovernmental bodies and inter-agency cooperation and coordination

5. In order to foster synergies through partnerships, UNODC provided strategic and substantive support to intergovernmental bodies and processes and continued to cooperate closely with other United Nations agencies, as well as regional and non-governmental organizations, in promoting the objectives of the Trafficking in Persons Protocol.

1. Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime

6. UNODC serviced and substantively supported the Working Group on Trafficking in Persons, established by the Conference of the Parties. Three background papers were drafted to facilitate policy discussions during the fifth session of the Working Group, held from 6 to 8 November 2013 in Vienna. The first background paper contained an analysis of key concepts of the Trafficking in Persons Protocol, with a focus on consent (CTOC/COP/WG.4/2013/2). The second background paper addressed good practices and tools for reducing demand for trafficking in persons, including by fostering public-private partnerships (CTOC/COP/WG.4/2013/3). The third paper explored forms of exploitation that are not specifically mentioned in the Trafficking in Persons Protocol but that have arisen in national, regional or international contexts or practice (CTOC/COP/WG.4/2013/4).

2. Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

7. Regarding the Trafficking in Persons Protocol, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, at its twenty-second session, recommended for adoption by the Economic and Social Council a resolution on implementation of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons, which was adopted by the Economic and Social Council as resolution 2013/41. At its twenty-third session, the Commission adopted resolution 23/2, on preventing and

combating trafficking in human organs and trafficking in persons for the purpose of organ removal.

8. In a side event held during the twenty-third session of the Commission, UNODC and the European Union presented information on their joint cooperation in the area of trafficking in persons and the smuggling of migrants.

3. Activities of the General Assembly

9. UNODC provided substantive contributions to the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the appraisal of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons, held from 13 to 15 May 2013, which was organized by the President of the General Assembly in order to assess developments in the implementation of the Global Plan of Action, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 64/293.

10. UNODC also actively engaged in the second High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, held on 3 and 4 October 2013. In a panel presentation, UNODC highlighted the need to prevent and combat trafficking in persons and to adopt measures to ensure respect for and protection of the human rights of all migrants and, in particular, vulnerable groups, such as women and children. UNODC also participated in a side event organized by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), which focused on human rights in the context of international borders. In addition, UNODC played an active role in a brainstorming session entitled "Implementation of the Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons: what next?".

11. At its sixty-eighth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 68/192, on improving the coordination of efforts against trafficking in persons, in which it decided, in the context of the need for raising awareness of the situation of victims of trafficking in persons and for the promotion and protection of their rights, to designate 30 July as the World Day against Trafficking in Persons, to be observed every year beginning in 2014. In accordance with that resolution, UNODC has planned a number of outreach activities to increase awareness of trafficking in persons.

4. Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons

12. UNODC acts as the designated coordinator and secretariat for the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons. The Group held an increased number of meetings and consultations during the 2012-2014 period, through which it continued its work to improve cooperation and coordination between United Nations entities and other international organizations.

13. The Group made significant progress in developing its work methods and governance structure through the adoption of terms of reference that institutionalized a rotating chairmanship and established a working group, composed of six member organizations, as the decision-making body of the Group. A plan to guide the work of the Group on an annual basis, starting from 2014, was also elaborated.

14. In 2013, the Group launched a series of policy papers, to be jointly developed by entities of the Group, examining key issues that have been identified as critical

challenges for the international community in the fight against trafficking in persons in the coming decade. A first paper, entitled "The international legal frameworks concerning trafficking in persons", was published in 2013; a second paper, entitled "Preventing trafficking in persons by addressing demand", is expected to be published in 2014.

15. In 2014, the Group will seek to operationalize its policy work on a regional basis and to launch a stand-alone website. Other goals include increasing the visibility of the Group by holding briefings for Member States more regularly and commencing work on a policy paper with the working title of "Evaluating anti-trafficking in persons responses".

5. Global Migration Group

16. UNODC is a member of the Global Migration Group, an inter-agency group which brings together heads of agencies to promote the wider application of all relevant instruments relating to migration and encourages the adoption of more coherent, comprehensive and better-coordinated actions.

17. During its chairmanship of the Global Migration Group in the second half of 2012, UNODC strengthened the cooperation capacity of the Group, through, inter alia, the successful conduct of an internal review of the Group since its establishment, and by strengthening links between the Group and the Global Forum on Migration and Development. The UNODC chairmanship also resulted in a thematic paper of the Group on the topic of "Exploitation and abuse of international migrants, particularly those in an irregular situation: a human rights approach".

18. Since the end of its chairmanship, UNODC has remained active and committed to the Group, for instance through its contribution to joint statements, papers and events on migration-related issues, including the United Nations post-2015 development agenda.

B. Technical assistance

19. In addition to normative work and active involvement in global inter-agency cooperation and coordination, the UNODC global programmes on trafficking in persons provide, in response to requests from Member States, expertise in the following key areas: (a) legislative assistance; (b) criminal justice responses and international cooperation; (c) data collection and research; (d) prevention and awareness-raising; and (e) victim protection and support.

20. Since 2012, UNODC has provided technical assistance on trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants to more than 80 countries in all regions of the world, promoting national, regional and interregional responses in addressing both issues. Through these activities, UNODC seeks to promote a gender perspective which addresses the particular situation of women and girls as victims, offenders and criminal justice professionals.

1. Legislative assistance

21. UNODC continued to provide Member States with tailor-made, specialized legislative assistance to help develop effective national legislation in line with the

requirements of the Trafficking in Persons Protocol. UNODC carried out assessments of legislative needs, supported the drafting of legislation to operationalize the Protocols and trained legal drafters for that purpose.

22. UNODC has developed various tools, such as the 2009 Model Law against Trafficking in Persons, for both common-law and civil-law jurisdictions. These tools are disseminated and used as training and reference materials during technical assistance activities; they are available on the UNODC web page.

23. Responding to specific requests, UNODC provided legislative assistance and guidance to a range of countries and legal systems, including Chad, Colombia, Georgia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Libya, Mexico, Morocco, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Seychelles, Swaziland and Zimbabwe. The approach of UNODC to technical assistance with respect to legislative reform is comprehensive, including both the regional and the national levels and often sequencing activities during the various stages of the legislative reform.

24. In November 2012, UNODC conducted an assessment mission on legislation to combat trafficking in persons and on activities in the Congo, resulting in a comprehensive report which was shared with the Congolese authorities in December 2012. The report was followed by an initial training session for criminal practitioners in Brazzaville in February 2013 and the facilitation of the first meeting of the legislative drafting committee in March 2013. At the end of July 2013, in cooperation with the Ministry of Justice of Congo, UNODC organized a validation workshop with respect to the draft legislation to combat trafficking in persons. At the conclusion of the process, the draft law was approved by the 40 participants from different ministries, the Presidency, the general secretariat of the Government, civil society, the legal profession and law enforcement.

25. In January 2013, UNODC conducted a legislative assistance workshop for more than 40 members of the committee preparing draft national legislation in Yemen to counter trafficking in persons, as well as for the National Technical Committee for Combating Human Trafficking and other relevant public officials. In November 2013, UNODC organized a follow-up legislative drafting workshop in Yemen to assist the national technical committee in finalizing the draft of a comprehensive law against trafficking in persons, in conformity with relevant international instruments and, in particular, the Trafficking in Persons Protocol.

26. Legislative assistance activities at the regional level included a conference for the Middle East and North Africa region on the status of legislation in the Arab world on trafficking in persons, which took place in Egypt in October 2013.

2. Strengthening criminal justice responses and international cooperation

27. UNODC offers technical assistance aimed at strengthening the criminal justice response of Member States to the complex and multifaceted crime of trafficking in persons. In line with its holistic approach and in close cooperation with the requesting Member State, UNODC undertakes, if required, an in-depth baseline needs assessment at the outset of any technical assistance activity. Activities are then tailored accordingly, to guarantee the sustainability of the assistance and to strengthen national ownership.

28. In March 2013, for instance, UNODC conducted an assessment mission to the Republic of Moldova to analyse, in close cooperation with the Government of that country, national needs with regard to its criminal justice response, and to develop recommendations on the way forward. An implementation plan under the UNODC project on improving criminal justice responses to trafficking in persons in South-Eastern Europe, with a focus on the Republic of Moldova, was developed in a validation workshop in April 2013. In June 2013, UNODC organized an expert group meeting to review the baseline assessment.

29. The technical assistance provided by UNODC to the Republic of Moldova responded directly to the needs that the assessment process had identified. UNODC carried out a series of workshops at the national level, including a workshop on strengthening capacities for combating trafficking in persons and cybercrime, a workshop on criminal intelligence analysis and a workshop on joint investigation teams. In addition, a peer exchange for Moldovan professionals to visit The Hague and Zwolle in the Netherlands was conducted, focusing on cybercrime and the establishment of joint investigation teams and a national rapporteur mechanism for trafficking in persons.

30. To ensure the sustainability of its technical assistance delivery, UNODC has continued to develop its train-the-trainers approach by fostering partnerships with national training institutions. UNODC carried out several train-the-trainers workshops, including in Kyrgyzstan, Mexico, Morocco, Pakistan and Swaziland.

31. In Kyrgyzstan, for example, in cooperation with the General Prosecutor's Office, UNODC organized a train-the-trainers workshop from 3 to 6 December 2012 on combating trafficking in persons. The workshop took place in the framework of the UNODC global training initiative on trafficking in persons, with the aim of training Kyrgyz prosecutors to train peers on effectively dealing with trafficking-in-persons cases. A follow-up workshop was organized from 20 to 23 May 2013 to provide Kyrgyz judges and prosecutors with in-depth training on the identification, investigation, prosecution and adjudication of trafficking-in-persons cases. The workshop was organized in close cooperation with the General Prosecutor's Office and with the Supreme Court of Kyrgyzstan, and applied interactive training means, such as mock trials and role-playing, that were based on national cases.

32. In addition to establishing and maintaining high-level technical expertise in a wide range of fields, a sound criminal justice response to trafficking in persons also requires partnership and effective international cooperation, and is vital for Member States of the same region. In this vein, UNODC cooperated closely with the relevant regional mechanisms that address trafficking in persons, including, for example, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Council of Europe, the League of Arab States and the Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime. UNODC organized and co-facilitated workshops and dialogues at the regional level, providing a forum for Member States of the same region to exchange experiences and to share knowledge relevant to their particular context.

33. In June 2013, a training workshop for the Pacific island region on combating trafficking in persons, organized in cooperation with the Pacific Immigration Directors' Conference, was held in Fiji, bringing together practitioners from Fiji, Kiribati, Micronesia (Federated States of), Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands,

Tonga and Vanuatu. A monthly bulletin for the Pacific, which compiles news and developments relevant to the region, has since been distributed on an ongoing basis by UNODC to the participants of the workshop, enhancing the sustainability of lessons learned from the workshop and fostering further information-sharing between stakeholders in the region.

34. A regional meeting on trafficking in persons and migrant smuggling routes, held in Turkey in July 2013, brought together participants from Afghanistan, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Pakistan and Turkey for a second time to discuss emerging regional trends.

35. UNODC contributed to the meeting of the informal European Union network of national rapporteurs or equivalent mechanisms on trafficking in human beings, which took place in Brussels in October 2013. UNODC also participated in the consultative meetings on strengthening partnerships with national rapporteurs on trafficking in persons and equivalent mechanisms, convened by the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, held in Berlin in May 2013 and in Bangkok in May 2014.

3. Data collection and research

36. Knowledge and research concerning the specific context of trafficking in persons at the national, regional and international levels are essential to strengthening understanding of that crime and the human rights violations involved. Moreover, such knowledge and data are prerequisites for the elaboration, implementation and evaluation of strategies to combat trafficking in persons, as well as for the development of evidence-based responses. Research and data collection shape the content of the tools and materials created to facilitate implementation of the Protocol by Member States, and allow UNODC to effectively advise and assist Member States while focusing its efforts on areas requiring particular attention. Tools produced by UNODC have been adapted to meet country-specific needs and to train relevant actors in the effective utilization of those tools.

37. As mandated by the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons, UNODC published the *Global Report on Trafficking in Persons* in December 2012, a comprehensive collection and analysis of globally available data on trafficking in persons. UNODC is currently preparing the second edition of the *Global Report on Trafficking in Persons*, to be published in December 2014, which will focus on patterns and flows related to the crime of trafficking in persons at the global, regional and national levels, as well as attempt to identify new trends.

38. The UNODC human trafficking case law database, launched in October 2011, is another major new contribution to bridging the knowledge gap. The database is designed to enable judges, prosecutors, policymakers, the media, researchers and other interested parties to access documented cases and court decisions on an ongoing basis and to take them into account when addressing the issue of trafficking in persons. The online database promotes uniform interpretation and application of the Protocol and national laws, allows users to consult on practices in different jurisdictions and improves knowledge regarding crime involving trafficking in persons.

39. In 2013 and 2014, UNODC expanded and further developed the database, which registered more than 9,160 search queries per month in 2013 and contains more than 1,000 cases from 83 countries.
40. Furthermore, since 2006 UNODC has developed a number of technical assistance tools, including handbooks, in-depth training manuals, issue papers, reports and assessments. These tools are an integral part of the capacity-building activities of UNODC, and serve as reference guides for criminal justice and law enforcement practitioners. The vast majority of these tools have been translated into the six official languages of the United Nations and are available online.
41. In 2013 and 2014, UNODC embarked on the preparation of a new digest of cases involving trafficking in persons for criminal justice practitioners. The case digest is designed to analyse evidential issues that are central in cases involving trafficking in persons, as well as victim protection issues that can have an impact on evidential matters. The subject is of special importance to practitioners, as trafficking cases present particularly complex evidential issues, many of which hinge upon the particular nature of this covert crime and the behaviour of victims, whose testimony is often the central piece of evidence. The cases analysed are drawn from the human trafficking case law database, as well as from independent UNODC research and from experts worldwide. UNODC convened an expert group meeting from 6 to 8 May 2014 to discuss a first draft of the case digest. The meeting gathered over 20 experts from across jurisdictions, including judges, prosecutors and academics.
42. The UN.GIFT.HUB, a virtual, Internet-based knowledge management mechanism aimed at raising awareness and promoting the exchange of knowledge related to trafficking in persons, was launched in late 2010. UNODC has continued to develop the hub as the key public platform for technical information on responses to trafficking in persons.
43. One particular substantive focus of UNODC research work is the exploration of key concepts of the Trafficking in Persons Protocol. The definition of "trafficking in persons" contained in the Protocol has been widely embraced by States and the international community. Nonetheless, over the past decade, it has become evident that questions remain about certain aspects of that definition. Accordingly, in 2010 the Working Group on Trafficking in Persons recommended that UNODC prepare a series of issue papers to assist criminal justice officers in penal proceedings on several concepts identified as requiring clarification.
44. Following the first issue paper in 2012, on the concept of "abuse of a position of vulnerability", UNODC began developing a second issue paper in 2013, addressing the notion of "consent". A third study, on the concept of "exploitation", will follow in 2014. The methodology of each study includes (a) a desk review of relevant literature, including legislation and case law, (b) a survey of countries representing different regions and legal traditions through legislative and case review, as well as interviews with practitioners, (c) the preparation of a draft issue paper, (d) a review of the draft issue paper and development of additional guidance by an international expert group meeting, and (e) the finalization of the issue paper and any associated guidance. In this context, in February 2014 in Vienna, UNODC convened an expert group meeting on the concept of "consent" in the context of trafficking in persons.

45. UNODC research is also aimed at examining specific manifestations of trafficking in persons. For instance, in order to address trafficking in persons for the removal of organs, UNODC organized an expert group meeting in December 2012, bringing together experts from various geographical regions and different professional backgrounds and disciplines, including the medical, legal and law enforcement sectors, to exchange their first-hand experiences in addressing this issue.

4. Prevention and awareness-raising

46. The Trafficking in Persons Protocol requires States parties to undertake prevention measures such as social and economic initiatives, research and awareness-raising campaigns targeting potential victims of trafficking and potential consumers of services provided by trafficked persons. The response to trafficking in persons calls for a wide range of actors to cooperate in designing and implementing such initiatives.

47. To prevent trafficking in persons and raise awareness, UNODC continues to participate in campaigns, exhibitions and other media events. It cooperates not only with Member States, but also with key international public sector actors, the private sector, non-governmental organizations and other partners.

48. The UNODC web page provides information on trafficking in persons and migrant smuggling, and received on average more than 70,000 views per month during 2013 and 2014. The Blue Heart Campaign of UNODC also continues to be an important awareness-raising tool and has been adopted by an increasing number of Member States as a national awareness-raising initiative on trafficking in persons. At the international level, the Campaign has been used to support the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children.

49. UNODC supports States and other stakeholders in their prevention efforts and in the development of national, regional and global campaigns to raise the awareness of different groups with regard to trafficking in persons. Activities at the national level include, for example, the partnership between UNODC and the Observatory on Trafficking in Human Beings (Portugal) in December 2012 to facilitate the dissemination of the Portuguese-language version of the UNODC practice manual for criminal justice practitioners and the dubbing of the awareness-raising film *Affected for Life* into Portuguese. UNODC also contributed to the anti-human-trafficking week in Switzerland in October 2013 by providing material for an exhibition and by attending a panel discussion during the opening event.

50. Other examples of UNODC technical assistance related to awareness-raising include support for a campaign in the Republic of Moldova which focuses on raising awareness among youth regarding the recruitment of persons via the Internet for the purpose of trafficking. The initiative was supported by the Government of the Republic of Moldova and La Strada Moldova, a national non-governmental organization. Parallel to the campaign, an informal Internet portal offered the possibility of reporting trafficking-in-persons cases, which were then referred to specialized partner law enforcement agencies by trained staff of non-governmental agencies. The Internet portal also provided online counselling for victims and a

referral mechanism to specialized service providers where they could receive appropriate assistance.

51. Furthermore, UNODC organized an awareness-raising tour in May 2013 in Colombia on trafficking in persons, which included an exhibition, a theatre production, a video forum and the participation of trafficking survivors, as well as actors of the popular television series *La Promesa*, which deals with the challenges facing people as they pursue their dreams. In addition, in June and July 2013, UNODC organized a series of three round-table events in Colombia with representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, migration authorities and criminal justice practitioners. UNODC also undertook efforts to encourage the establishment of a legal counselling network with regard to trafficking in persons, which promotes pro bono legal counselling for victims and their legal representation during criminal proceedings and fosters relevant networking strategies. In particular, from 16 to 19 July 2013, UNODC organized a four-day event in Bogotá on legal counselling, bringing together relevant stakeholders, and launched a manual on providing legal assistance to trafficking victims.

52. In December 2013 in Manila, UNODC delivered a national training workshop for foreign service consular officers to help them to identify and assist victims of trafficking and smuggled migrants. The workshop was followed by a pilot one-week workshop organized by the Philippines in April 2014 in Ankara for their foreign service officers deployed in the Middle East and African regions. A similar initiative for Indonesian consular staff deployed abroad was supported by UNODC in Lombok, Indonesia, in May 2014.

53. At the regional level, UNODC staff delivered lectures on trafficking in persons to a wide range of audiences, including at the conference for youth leaders of End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes held in November 2012 in Vienna. In addition, UNODC contributed to regional awareness-raising campaigns and initiatives such as the third annual Doha Forum to Combat Human Trafficking, held in Qatar in January 2013, and to events held in Vienna in October 2013 for the European Union Anti-Trafficking Day.

54. At the global level, in December 2012, UNODC organized an e-lecture/webinar on "Trafficking prevention and the victims: new United Nations and academic perspectives". In September 2013, the Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking broadcast a webinar on best practices for reporting trafficking in persons and the role of the media.

55. UNODC participated in the International Women Leaders' Conference on "The post-2015 and sustainable development goals agenda: ensuring the centrality of gender equality and women's empowerment in the next framework", which took place in Haifa, Israel, in November 2013. UNODC used this opportunity to point out how various social and cultural factors make women and girls specifically vulnerable to exploitation and abuse, especially in the context of the increasing feminization of migration.

56. UNODC also engaged with Member States during several informal briefings on the global programmes against trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants, held in May 2013 in New York, in February 2014 in Vienna and in June 2014 in Geneva.

5. Victim protection and support

57. A core element of the mandate of UNODC under the Trafficking in Persons Protocol is to increase the level of protection and assistance provided to victims of trafficking in persons, as set out in article 2, paragraph (b), and articles 6, 7 and 8 of the Trafficking in Persons Protocol. As the guardian of this instrument, UNODC assists countries in fully implementing a comprehensive response to trafficking by ensuring that structures are in place not only to convict traffickers but also to address the realities experienced by the victims of such crimes. Accordingly, UNODC advocates for a human-rights-based, victim-centred approach.

58. UNODC worked closely with other international and regional organizations, relevant national governmental institutions and civil society organizations on safeguarding the rights of victims. In particular, UNODC participated in a regional consultation, organized by OHCHR in Geneva, on the right to effective remedies for victims of trafficking in persons.

59. UNODC also assisted with the review and revision of national legislation concerning assistance and protection of victims, the training of criminal justice practitioners and service providers on the protection of trafficking victims, and the fostering of mechanisms securing the safety of victims. Examples of technical assistance activities aimed directly at promoting the rights of victims include a six-day peer exchange organized by UNODC in December 2012 for Nigerian officials to visit India and to gather information that would enable the participants to strengthen capacity in the care and rehabilitation of victims of trafficking. The exchange focused on the support and rehabilitation of victims, as well as shelter management.

60. UNODC also contributes to supporting victims in practical terms through its activities as manager of the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children. The Trust Fund was established in 2010 as part of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons, with the objective of providing humanitarian, legal and financial aid to victims of trafficking in persons. Funds are channelled to support on-the-ground organizations that work with victims and survivors of trafficking in persons.

61. Since its inception, the Trust Fund has received \$1.5 million in contributions from a wide range of supporters, including Member States, private sector organizations and individual donors. These funds were channelled through 11 grass-roots organizations around the world to support victims and survivors of trafficking. A charity event with UNODC goodwill ambassador Nicolas Cage in November 2013 raised a further \$185,000 for the Trust Fund. In 2014, the organizations started implementation of the third and final year of their projects under the multi-year grant, and will end those projects on 31 December 2014.

62. A second call for proposals is planned for the third quarter of 2014. An independent evaluation of the first grant-making cycle will be conducted in 2014 in order to identify lessons learned and recommendations for the future of the Trust Fund so that it can become an even more effective tool to assist victims of trafficking in persons.

63. At the end of 2013, the Secretary-General appointed a new Board of Trustees to provide strategic direction for the management of the Trust Fund. The Board consists of five members representing the five regional groups of the United Nations. The new Board of Trustees will serve a three-year term until December 2016.

III. Conclusions

64. The approach of UNODC in promoting the implementation of the Trafficking in Persons Protocol providing technical assistance to Member States and fostering inter-agency cooperation with regard to trafficking in persons has included the active participation of relevant stakeholders at the international, regional and national levels.

65. Despite the progress made, trafficking in persons remains a pressing global problem, victimizing millions of people and affecting all regions. UNODC will continue its efforts to promote and support the implementation of the Trafficking in Persons Protocol, and work jointly with Member States and international organizations, civil society and victims towards making the fight against trafficking in persons in all its forms ever more effective.